

 **CITY OF
STOCKTON NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release: Thursday, August 10, 2023

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AGREEMENT REACHED TO PROTECT STOCKTON'S UNHOUSED COMMUNITY & EMERGENCY SHELTER SERVICES

STOCKTON, Calif. – The City of Stockton has announced that an agreement has been reached to transition the Stockton Shelter for the Homeless sublease, including operations, to St. Mary's Dining Room, as early as September 1, 2023. Both nonprofit organizations have agreed to terms and conditions that will allow for a smooth and orderly transition, protecting the families, women, and men, who are served by the Stockton Shelter ("Shelter"), and sustaining vital emergency shelter services for the community.

"We are excited that we have been able to facilitate the assignment of the Stockton Shelter for the Homeless sublease to St. Mary's Dining Room," shared City Manager and Director of Emergency Services Harry Black. "From the onset of this ordeal, we have been pursuing multiple strategies and assignment of the sublease has been one of the strategies. Resolving this matter has required a collective effort. Staff, across City government, have been working hard on this and in tandem with our external partners. We will continue to work toward a smooth transition, ensuring that the most vulnerable of our community have a roof over their heads and access to all necessary services."

On Monday, July 31, 2023, the City of Stockton declared a Local Emergency to protect nearly 250 unhoused individuals, including families with children, women, and men,

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who were at risk of being displaced by the announced closure of the Shelter. The Local Emergency was ratified by the City Council on Thursday, August 3, 2023.

Efforts began immediately to address the announced closure of the Shelter. The City's top priority has focused on planning and preparing for any potential outcome. The assignment of the lease to St. Mary's Dining Room will allow guests to continue to receive services without relocation or disruption of services.

"The collaborative efforts of the City of Stockton, Stockton Shelter for the Homeless, and St. Mary's Dining Room in reaching an agreement reflects the compassion and commitment of our entire community," said Mayor Kevin Lincoln. "It illustrates that, when we all come together toward a common mission, we are united in our dedication to the safety, protection, and support of our unhoused community members."

"We'd like to thank the Stockton Shelter for the Homeless and St. Mary's Dining Room for working through the process that has made this agreement possible. In addition, we are extremely grateful to our external partners, including San Joaquin County, Salvation Army, United Way, and all of those who assisted by answering the call, ready to serve, developing contingency plans for any potential outcome," continued Black.

For additional information, please contact the City of Stockton Community Relations Officer or visit www.stocktonca.gov/news.

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